

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Methods and compositions for treating, managing or ameliorating pain in a subject (preferably, a mammal, and more preferably, a human) comprising administration of a centrally acting (*i.e.*, crosses the blood brain barrier) agonist of a  $\kappa$ -opioid receptor and a centrally acting opioid antagonist such that the analgesia achieved by this administration is greater than with administration of either the  $\kappa$ -opioid receptor agonist or the opioid antagonist alone. Preferably the  $\kappa$ -opioid receptor is nalbuphine or a salt or prodrug of nalbuphine and the opioid antagonist is naloxone or a salt or prodrug of naloxone. Preferred methods of administration include mucosal (e.g. intranasal or pulmonary) and intravenous. Other  $\kappa$ -opioid receptors include pentazocine and butorphanol.